

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated September 25, 2002. A diligent effort has been made to respond to all of the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the claim amendments and the foregoing remarks. It is believed that this Amendment puts the application in condition for allowance and a notice of allowance is requested.

A. Drawings

The Drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. But the Examiner did not explain exactly which steps are allegedly missing from the drawings. Moreover, Applicants traverse the objection as the drawings on file, in connection with the detailed description thereof, adequately describe the claimed invention.

B. Rejections under 35 USC 112

The Examiner rejected claim 53 under section 112. This claim has now been amended to remove the language objected to by the Examiner and therefore the rejection has been overcome.

C. Rejections over Adler et al. and Bezaire

Claims 45-48, 50-52, 54, 56 and 60 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Adler (USPN 6,157,630) in view of Ross (USPN 5,812,671). Claims 49 and 53 were rejected over Adler in view of Ross, and further in view of the Mobilevision manual (MV) and press release (Dunker). Claims 57-59 and 61 were rejected over Adler and Ross in view of MV and the Microsoft Outlook manual. Claim

55 was rejected over Adler in view of Ross and further in view of Gleason (USPN 5,966,663). All of these claims were also rejected primarily over Bezaire (USPN 5,758,088) in essentially the same combinations as over Adler. Applicants respectfully traverse the numerous rejections over Adler and Bezaire.

As now set forth in amended Claim 45, the invention described in this application is a method of replicating electronic messages between a messaging server and a plurality of wireless mobile devices. The method includes two primary steps:

(1) receiving the electronic messages at the messaging server and storing the electronic messages in a message store having a plurality of mailboxes, wherein each of the plurality of wireless mobile devices is associated with one of the plurality of mailboxes; and

(2) without receiving requests to download the received electronic messages from the message store to the plurality of wireless mobile devices, continuously pushing the received electronic messages from the mailboxes associated with each of the wireless mobile devices to the wireless mobile devices. The second step is then defined to include the following sub-steps (A) through (E):

(A) monitoring the plurality of mailboxes using a software program that interfaces with the message store and detects the received messages in the mailboxes associated with each of the wireless mobile devices;

(B) replicating the detected electronic messages stored in each of the mailboxes;

(C) transmitting the replicated electronic messages to a gateway

computer system;

(D) receiving the replicated electronic messages at the gateway computer system and routing the replicated electronic messages from the gateway computer system to the wireless network; and

(E) transmitting the replicated electronic messages from the wireless network to the plurality of wireless mobile devices, and storing the replicated messages in a memory store within each wireless mobile device, thereby mirroring the electronic messages stored in the mailboxes with those stored in the wireless mobile devices.

Neither of the primary references used by the Examiner, Adler or Bezair, disclose or suggest this replication method. Moreover, the numerous 103 combinations applied by the Examiner also do not disclose or suggest this method. Therefore, the rejections should be withdrawn.

Adler describes a wireless electronic mail delivery system in which messages are stored at a first server 205. A gateway 204 connects the first server 205 to a wireless network 202, which is capable of two-way communication with a plurality of radio devices 200. Adler, however, is a "pull" synchronization system in which a "session" must be established by the radio device 200 with the first server 205 in order for any electronic mail information to be transmitted over the wireless network to the radio device. (See, for example, Figure 6, blocks 550 and 681, showing that prior to any information transfer, a "virtual session" must be established between the radio device

and the host server; *and also* Col. 4, ll. 14-19 "Radio device 200 first establishes a virtual session with server 205. . ."; *and also* Col. 6, ll. 36-50 "Upon selecting one of the first two preferences and activating button 571, a message is sent from the user device 200 to the server 205 instructing the server 205 to begin sending (feeding) messages to the radio device 200"; *and also* Col. 8, ll. 4-11 "Referring in detail to FIG. 6, the flow begins by establishing a virtual session between the radio device 200 and the host server 205. This establishment of a virtual session takes place at steps 650 in the radio device and 651 in the host server. Following commencement of a virtual session, and following activation of on-screen key 502, a command to start feed is generated."

As all these quotations from Adler demonstrate, Adler is a "pull" system, just as described in the Background section of the present application. As noted there, these types of pull systems suffer from many disadvantages, most notably being that the only time that there is synchronicity between the server and the mobile device is when the mobile device requests a download (or feed) of the stored data. At all other times the two systems are not synchronized and hence do not contain the same information.

With this description of Adler in mind, it is clear that Adler does not disclose or suggest the method of claim 45. Claim 45 is describing a replication method in which the memory store at the messaging server is continuously synchronized with a plurality of memory stores in the wireless mobile devices. This continuous synchronization method is further described in the second step of claim 45, in which electronic messages received and stored in the message store of the messaging server are continuously "pushed" to the wireless mobile devices *without receiving requests to*

download the received electronic messages. This second step is further defined as including the steps (A) - (E) of monitoring the plurality of mailboxes using a software program and detecting the received messages; replicating the detected messages; transmitting the replicated messages to a gateway; receiving the replicated messages at the gateway and transmitting them to a wireless network; and transmitting the replicated messages to the wireless mobile devices.

Adler, by distinction, ***only transmits messages from the server 205 to the radio device 200 after a virtual session (i.e., a request to download) is transmitted from the radio device 200 to the server 205.*** Thus, Adler is the antithesis of claim 45, which specifically sets forth the acts of continuously pushing the received electronic messages without any received request to download (e.g., requesting a virtual session). In this way, Adler teaches away from the present invention, and is merely cumulative of the prior art "pull" systems previously acknowledged in this application.

In addition, because Adler only transmits messages after a request to establish a "virtual session" is received and processed, there is absolutely no need in Adler for the claimed steps of monitoring the plurality of mailboxes and detecting the received messages. These steps are thus nowhere disclosed or suggested by Adler.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 45, as well as the remaining dependent claims, are patentably distinct from Adler, either taken alone, or in the various combinations asserted in the Office Action.

Turning then to Bezaire, this patent describes a conventional electronic mail system that has been modified to permit certain messages to pass through a user's

electronic mail account and be delivered to a wireless device. Unlike claim 45, however, Bezaire is not related to replicating data between the server and the wireless device. In addition, Bezaire fails to disclose or suggest step (A) of claim 45, but instead discloses an alternative, unrelated methodology of getting messages to the wireless mobile device.

As now amended, claim 45 relates to a replication method between a centralized server message store having a plurality of mailboxes and a plurality of distributed message stores in the wireless mobile devices. The claimed steps of replicating received electronic mail messages by continuously pushing the received messages from the central data store to the plurality of distributed data stores is recited to achieve the "push" synchronization concept described in the present application. By replication, the claim is referring to the process of having a copy of the received messages stored at the central data store and also stored at the mobile device.

Bezaire does not teach a replication method, let alone the type specified in claim 45. In Bezaire, a message sender must choose whether to send a message to a recipient's central data store at the server 17, or to send the message *through* the server and onto the wireless device. There is never a situation in Bezaire where the same message is stored at the central data store and also stored at the mobile device. *See, for example*, Col. 3, ll. 1-6 "Messages destined for a wireless device *pass through* one or more information service message servers 16, 17 before arriving at the wireless gateway server 18." (note that there is no mention of "storing" the messages at the message server and then replicating those stored messages to the wireless device);

and also Col. 3, ll. 52-57 "In the next step 16 User A creates a message to send to User B. Preferably, for the message address, User A provides User B's information service ID *and an indicator that the message should be forwarded to User B's wireless device*. The indicator may be a word such as "MOBILE."

As these passages from Bezaire make clear, the electronic messages in Bezaire are not replicated. Instead, by using a special "indicator," a message sender is able to cause an electronic message to "pass through" the recipient's electronic mail system account and be routed to their wireless device. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Bezaire that all of the messages that are received at the recipient's electronic mailbox are continuously replicated and pushed to their mobile device. Indeed, Bezaire states that ". . . recipients may access the online information service to get messages that may not have been delivered to the wireless device." Col. 6, ll. 4-7. This quote further demonstrates that some messages are routed to the mobile device, while others are not, and thus Bezaire is not teaching replication between a central data store and a remote wireless device store.

In addition to not disclosing or suggesting replication, Bezaire also does not disclose or suggest the monitoring and detecting sub-steps (A) of claim 45. Like Adler, these steps are not necessary in Bezaire. In Adler, these steps were not needed because the recipient established a "virtual session" and then "pulled" any received messages from their mailbox. In Bezaire, these steps are not needed because the sender of the message puts the "indicator" into the address of the messages, such as the word "MOBILE," which then causes the message to "pass through" the electronic

mail server.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 45, as well as the remaining dependent claims, are patentably distinct from Bezair, either taken alone, or in the various combinations asserted in the Office Action.

A marked up version of the amendments is set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 56, 58, 59 and 61

Please amend the pending claims as follows:

45. (Amended) A method of [forwarding] replicating electronic [mail] messages [from] between a messaging server [to] and a plurality of wireless mobile devices, comprising the steps of:

receiving the electronic [mail] messages at the messaging server and storing the electronic [mail] messages in a message store having a plurality of mailboxes, wherein each of the plurality of wireless mobile devices is associated with [at least] one of the plurality of mailboxes; and

without receiving requests to download the received electronic messages from the message store to the plurality of wireless mobile devices, continuously pushing the received electronic messages from the mailboxes associated with each of the wireless mobile devices to the wireless mobile devices, wherein the continuously pushing step includes the steps of:

(A) monitoring the plurality of mailboxes using a software program that interfaces with the message store and detects the received messages in the mailboxes associated with each of the wireless mobile devices; [using a Messaging Application Programming Interface (MAPI);]

(B) replicating the detected electronic messages stored in each of the mailboxes;

[encrypting the detected electronic mail messages;]

[addressing each of the encrypted electronic mail messages using an Internet address associated with a gateway computer system that couples the Internet to a wireless network and a wireless network address associated with one of the plurality of wireless mobile devices;]

(C) transmitting the [encrypted] replicated electronic [mail] messages to [the] a gateway computer system [via an Internet connection];

(D) receiving the [encrypted] replicated electronic [mail] messages at the gateway computer system and routing the [encrypted] replicated electronic [mail] messages from the gateway computer system to the wireless network; and

(E) transmitting the [encrypted] replicated electronic [mail] messages from the wireless network to the plurality of wireless mobile devices, [wherein each wireless mobile device receives and decrypts the encrypted electronic mail messages that are addressed using the wireless network address associated the particular wireless mobile device] and storing the replicated messages in a memory store within each wireless mobile device, thereby mirroring the electronic messages stored in the mailboxes and those stored in the wireless mobile devices. —

46. (Amended) The method of claim 45, further comprising the steps of:

compressing the detected electronic [mail] messages prior to transmission to the gateway computer system; and

decompressing the [decrypted] compressed electronic mail messages after receipt at the wireless mobile device.

47. (Amended) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of:

[providing] storing a plurality of user profiles for each of the wireless mobile devices for use by the software program, the user profiles including [the wireless network address associated with the wireless mobile devices and] a filter list for blocking certain electronic [mail] messages from being [forwarded] replicated and transmitted to the wireless mobile device.

48. (Amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising the step of:

transmitting a command message from at least one of the wireless mobile devices to the software program via the wireless network, [the gateway, and the Internet,] wherein the command message adds an electronic [mail] message sender to the filter list so that messages from the electronic [mail] message sender are blocked from being forwarded to the at least one wireless mobile device.

49. (Amended) The method of claim 45, wherein at least one of the electronic [mail] messages includes an attachment, further comprising the step of:

determining whether the attachment is of the type that can be received and displayed by a particular wireless mobile device, and if so, then [encrypting] replicating the attachment and transmitting the [encrypted] replicated attachment [from the software program] to the wireless mobile device via the [Internet, the gateway, and] the wireless network, wherein the wireless mobile device then receives and [decrypts the encrypted] stores the replicated attachment.

50. (Amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising the steps of:

storing an encryption key for each of the wireless mobile devices in the user profiles; and

using the encryption key for each of the wireless mobile devices to encrypt the [detected] replicated electronic [mail] messages prior to transmission to the gateway computer system.

51. (Amended) The method of claim 45, further comprising the steps of:

generating electronic [mail] messages at the wireless mobile devices;

encrypting the electronic [mail] messages;

transmitting the encrypted electronic [mail] messages from the wireless mobile devices to the gateway computer system and from the gateway computer system to the software program [via the Internet connection];

receiving the encrypted electronic [mail] messages at the software program and decrypting the encrypted electronic [mail] messages;

storing the electronic [mail] messages in the mailboxes associated with the wireless mobile devices; and

transmitting the electronic [mail] messages from the mailboxes to a plurality of message recipients, wherein the electronic [mail] messages are addressed as

originating from an electronic [mail] addresses associated with the mailboxes.

53. (Amended) The method of claim 52, further comprising the step of:

each of the plurality of desktop computer systems controlling whether the software program is enabled to [monitor, encrypt, address] carry out the steps (A), (B), and (C) [and transmit electronic mail message to a particular wireless mobile device].

57. (Amended) The method of claim 45, further comprising the steps of:

storing calendar data at the message store for each of the plurality of wireless mobile devices;

using the software program to detect a change in the calendar data at the message store; and

if the software program detects a change in the calendar data at the message store, then [encrypting, addressing] replicating the change in the calendar data and transmitting the replicated change in the calendar data to at least one of the wireless mobile devices via the gateway computer system [and the Internet].

60. (Amended) The method of claim 45, further comprising the steps of:

[transmitting] replicating only a first portion of a received electronic [mail] message and transmitting only the replicated first portion of the received electronic message to one of the wireless mobile devices;

receiving the replicated first portion at the wireless mobile device;

transmitting a command message from the wireless mobile device to the software program to [forward] replicate and transmit a second portion of the received electronic [mail] message to the wireless mobile device; and

in response to the command message, the software program [encrypting, addressing] replicating and transmitting the second portion of the received electronic mail message to the wireless mobile device.

Please add the following new claims:

– 62. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a plurality of triggering commands to the software program, each triggering command being associated with one of the plurality of wireless mobile devices and initiating the software program to continuously push the received electronic messages from the mailbox associated with the wireless mobile device to the wireless mobile device. --

-- 63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the plurality of triggering commands are generated at desktop computer systems coupled to the software program via a local area network. --

– 64. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the plurality of triggering commands are generated at the plurality of wireless mobile devices. --

– 65. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of:

transmitting confirmation signals from the wireless mobile devices to the software program to indicate that the replicated electronic messages have been received at the wireless mobile devices. --

– 66. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of:

providing a software interface between the software program and the message store that enables the software program to detect when received messages are present in the message store. --

– 67. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein the software interface is a messaging application programming interface (MAPI). --

— 68. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising the steps of:

generating electronic messages at a plurality of message generating computers, wherein the electronic messages are addressed for delivery to the plurality of mailboxes; and

transmitting the electronic messages to the messaging server. —

-- 69. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising the steps of:

addressing each of the replicated electronic messages using an Internet address associated with the gateway computer system and a wireless network address associated with one of the plurality of wireless mobile devices. --